

**Testimony regarding: S.B. No. 932 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STAFF
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS**

Submitted By:
Yutong Gao

Good afternoon Sen. McCrory, Rep. Sanchez, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Yutong Gao, and I live in Mansfield.

I am honored to be presenting testimony on the issue of S.B. No. 932 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STAFF QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS.

This is an issue that is very important to me. I am a senior student in UConn's ECE program. I am from Daqing, the Northeast of China. I learned the importance of high quality child care and how it would impact children's development during my past one and half years at UConn. One aspect of a high quality child care is to have qualified caregivers/teachers, who recognize and understand children's development. "Qualified" means well-educated and well-trained. In fact, I will bring what I learned and experienced here back to my hometown, to my community in order to help more children benefit from high quality care.

One of the most intractable problems in ECE field is the shortage of qualified teachers and assistant teachers. Also, less and less Connecticut universities offering bachelor's degrees in early childhood. Without these various programs, less people, especially those who are well-educated, will go into ECE field.

This is an issue that will impact the educational well-being and future of Connecticut's young children, and requires immediate action. If the policy change is enacted, tailored education and proficient trainings help teachers build the knowledge base of children's development, provide better care, support children's learning, build positive, supportive relationships with children, families, and colleagues, and lastly, create an inclusive community with children and parents from a diverse range of cultures and backgrounds.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify about S.B. No. 932 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STAFF QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS. Thank you for your consideration.